(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State Government of Karnataka has been requested to send proposals for development of destinations for Central financial assistance during 2002-03.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Antique Paintings Destroyed in National Gallery of Modern Arts

†725. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara on 28th April, 2002 captioned, "Dekh-rekh kay abhav main nasht ho rahin hain durlabh etihasik paintings";

(b) if so, the number of important paintings and piece of arts destroyed so far in the National Gallery of Modern Arts;

(c) the action Government propose to take against the concerned officers for this kind of negligence; and

(d) the details of steps Government propose to take care for historical works of arts and painting in such type of museums in future?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No painting or works of art has been destroyed at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) National Gallery of Modern Art has in its collection historical and contemporary works of arts and painting which are preserved and maintained at par with international standards by a dedicated team of technical officers and skilled personnel.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.